United Nations S/2010/485

Security Council

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17 September 2010

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Letter dated 14 September 2010 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to paragraph 20 of Security Council resolution 1933 (2010), in which the Council expressed its intention to consider raising for a limited period of time, prior to and after the elections in Côte d'Ivoire, the level of authorized military and police personnel up to a total of no more than 500 additional personnel, which would raise the authorized overall strength of the uniformed personnel of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) from 8,650 to 9,150.

On 6 September 2010, the Ivorian parties announced that they had reached agreement on the final voters list. The presidential decree concerning the national identity cards and final voters list was signed by the President of Côte d'Ivoire, Laurent Gbagbo, on 9 September 2010. The voters list is likely to be published by the Independent Electoral Commission early next week. The presidential elections are now scheduled for 31 October 2010; they are to be followed by legislative elections 45 days after the announcement of the results of the presidential elections.

As indicated in my previous reports, the responsibility for providing security for the elections rests in the first instance with the Ivorian Integrated Command Centre, with support from UNOCI and the French Licorne force. However, as previously indicated, the Ivorian security forces are not yet able to deploy the full complement of the agreed 8,000 personnel as mixed units in the Integrated Command Centre and also lack the capacity and means to effectively provide a secure environment for the elections. As at 2 September 2010, they were able to provide only 1,097 personnel to the Integrated Command Centre. Therefore, the recommended additional UNOCI military and police personnel are still required to reinforce the capacity of UNOCI to contribute to the security arrangements for the elections.

I had previously informed the Security Council that the Secretariat had explored various options for reinforcing UNOCI. As indicated in my report to the Council of 20 May 2010 (S/2010/245), the joint proposal by President Gbagbo and the President of Burkina Faso, Blaise Compaoré, to deploy, as part of UNOCI, up to 500 troops from Burkina Faso to reinforce security arrangements during the elections has not been further pursued by the two countries.

Consequently, the Secretariat has explored the possibility of augmenting existing military units and formed police units on the ground and identified willing troop- and police-contributing countries. A total of 300 troops (one company each

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from two existing francophone troop contributors) and 100 formed police unit personnel (from three identified existing police-contributing countries) would be deployed as soon as possible for a period of up to six months.

I recommend that the Security Council approve the course of action set out above. The Secretariat estimates that the cost of the deployment of the 400 personnel would amount to US $11.3 million. Although at this stage only 400 of the maximum number of 500 indicated by the Security Council in resolution 1933 (2010) for possible approval would be deployed, it is important to temporarily raise the authorized strength of the mission by the full 500 uniformed personnel from 8,650 to 9,150 as a contingency measure. In addition, the Secretariat is exploring the possibility of deploying an aviation unit to UNOCI comprising up to two helicopters for a period of up to three months.

I should be most grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council. I would also greatly appreciate an urgent decision by the Council, as soon as the final voters list has been published by the Independent Electoral Commission, to ensure that the additional personnel are deployed in sufficient time prior to the elections of 31 October 2010.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Letter dated 17 September 2010 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 14 September 2010 (S/2010/485) concerning raising, for a limited period of time prior to and after the elections in Côte d'Ivoire, the level of authorized military and police personnel of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire has been brought to the attention of the members of the Council. They take note of the information contained in your letter and approve the course of action outlined therein.

(*Signed*) Ertuğrul **Apakan**
President of the Security Council

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United Nations S/2010/487

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17 September 2010

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Letter dated 16 September 2010 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as President of the Security Council, I am forwarding to you a letter dated 17 August 2010, from the Chair of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict established by Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) (see annex), based on the Working Group's conclusions adopted on 29 April 2010 (S/AC.51/2010/2).

(*Signed*) Ertuğrul **Apakan**
President of the Security Council

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Annex to the letter dated 16 September 2010 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

On 1 July 2009, the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, established by Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), examined the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Sri Lanka (S/2009/325). Following its meeting on 29 April 2010, the Working Group adopted its conclusions on the parties to the armed conflict in Sri Lanka (S/AC.51/2010/2).

In follow-up to the recommendations of the Working Group, approved by the Security Council, and subject to and consistent with applicable international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, including Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009), I am entrusted, in my capacity as Chair of the Working Group, to commend the efforts undertaken by your Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in coordination with the Government of Sri Lanka to contribute actively to the protection of children.

I invite you to call upon the international community to continue to allocate adequate funding for capacity-building in Sri Lanka for the protection of children and to request the United Nations Development Programme, UNICEF and other relevant United Nations agencies, within their respective mandates and in close cooperation with the Government of Sri Lanka, to address socio-economic issues that will also contribute to addressing the welfare of children, including strengthening relevant national institutions, and provide further assistance in the implementation of rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for children.

I also kindly request you to prepare a follow-up report on the implementation of the conclusions of the Working Group to be issued in 2011, bearing in mind the end of the armed conflict in Sri Lanka.

(*Signed*) Claude **Heller**
Chairman of the Working Group on Children
and Armed Conflict

United Nations S/2010/488

Security Council

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20 September 2010

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Letter dated 17 September 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing in reference to the statements made by the representatives of Eritrea and Kenya on Thursday, 16 September 2010, during the consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia (S/2010/447) by the Security Council at its 6386th meeting. During that meeting, both delegations made unfounded allegations that Eritrea is providing support to the Al-Shabaab group in Somalia. Ethiopia made a similar smear campaign in its media outlets recently, in which case the Eritrean Ministry of Foreign Affairs responded by issuing a press release on 15 September 2010 titled "Ethiopia: Endless Campaign of Disinformation", which I am attaching herewith (see annex). The timing and intent of this round of accusations against Eritrea is carefully orchestrated to misinform and wrongly influence Council members and the Somalia Monitoring Group that has been touring the Horn of Africa region as well as to cover up Ethiopia's renewed impending military intervention in Somalia.

Contrary to the defamation and unwarranted accusations stemming from all-too-obvious parties, Eritrea is not extending any form of support to any faction in Somalia. Eritrea remains open to engaging with all concerned partners and parties to achieve a secure and stable Somalia through an inclusive Somali-owned peace process. The frank and open discussions held in Asmara, Eritrea, during the past few weeks between the President of Eritrea and high officials of the United Nations is part of Eritrea's genuine desire to bring an end to the sufferings of the Somali people.

I would be most grateful if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Araya **Desta**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 17 September 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Ethiopia: Endless Campaign of Disinformation

In the last issue of its bulletin, "Week in the Horn", the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia falsely alleges that Eritrea provided "a plane load of weapons and medical supplies to Al-Shabaab in Kismayo ... at the same time as President Isaias was talking to Mr. Pascoe (the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs) and Ambassador Mahiga" (the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Somalia). The statement goes further to claim: "About 30 wounded Al-Shabaab fighters, including five foreigners, were then loaded onto the plane and flown back to Asmara ... An Eritrean official who flew down from Asmara in the plane also travelled to Afgoye to meet with Sheik Aweys." To give a semblance of "credence" to these preposterous accusations, the Ministry attributes the story to anonymous "sources close to Al-Shabaab".

This is not the first time that the Foreign Ministry's weekly bulletin is peddling propaganda against Eritrea. For reasons better known to Ethiopia, the misinformation campaign seems to have increased in the past few weeks with a litany of lopsided editorials on the well-known rulings of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission, the Qatar mediation process, as well as innuendos and outright lies on the visits of foreign dignitaries to Eritrea. Dignifying these malicious distortions and/or groundless accusations with responses will not serve any purpose and Eritrea has not bothered to address them.

The timing and intent behind this "Al-Shabaab" story has, however, two dimensions that must be addressed to put the record straight. Ethiopia's Foreign Ministry has fabricated this story this week precisely in order to misinform and wrongly influence the Somalia Monitoring Group that is touring the Horn of Africa region and that arrived in Asmara on 12 September. The other probable reason might have to do with Ethiopia's desire and pending plans to intervene again in Somalia. Indeed, when Ethiopia invaded Somalia in December 2006, to oust the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC) of the same Sheik Sherif who was then accused of extremism and is now embraced as "moderate", one of the pretexts it peddled was Eritrea's deployment in Somalia of 2,000 troops. Unfortunately, this total fabrication was not properly verified at the time and recycled as truth even by the Somalia Monitoring Group. We see now the same tape being played again.

In conclusion, as Eritrea has repeatedly explained, the crisis in Somalia can only be solved through an all-inclusive political peace process. Ethiopia's repeated and failed invasions of Somalia and other political machinations to keep Somalia weak and fragmented have not only proven futile but become a source of the problem rather than its solution.

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-fifth year

Identical letters dated 17 September 2010 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am compelled to write to you today to draw your attention to the continuing condemnable use of excessive and lethal force by Israel, the occupying Power, against Palestinian civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. This has included indiscriminate force against innocent civilians, as well as extrajudicial killings, deliberately and callously carried out by the Israeli occupying forces.

In this regard, earlier this week, on 12 September 2010, the Israeli occupying forces unleashed tank fire at Palestinian civilians in the northern Gaza Strip area of Beit Hanoun, violently killing three people, including a child, who were tending to their land herding their sheep in the area. Those killed included a 91-year-old man, Ibrahim Abu Said, and Ismail Odeh, aged 21, who was beheaded as a result of the forceful impact of the shelling, and Husam Khaled Ibrahim Abu Said, aged 16. We condemn the killing of these innocent civilians, and we call for those responsible for this crime to be held accountable. The international community must also unequivocally condemn these murders and call upon Israel to cease its use of excessive and indiscriminate force against the Palestinian people.

Also, today, 17 September 2010, the Israeli occupying forces carried out yet another extrajudicial killing of a Palestinian civilian, further increasing tensions and adding to Israel's long list of violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law. At dawn, a large contingent of Israeli soldiers raided the Noor Al-Shams refugee camp in Tulkarem in the northern West Bank. Several Palestinians were arrested by the occupying forces in the raid and the brother of 38 year-old Iyad Shalbayah was forced to lead the soldiers to his brother's home. Upon arrival, the soldiers detonated an explosive charge at the front door, forcing their way into the home and assassinating Iyad Shalbayah. The soldiers then seized the body and took it to an unidentified location, before turning it over to the Palestinian Red Crescent hours later. Palestinian medical sources confirm that the victim died as a result of three gunshot wounds, one to the neck and

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two to the chest, and initial investigations by human rights organizations further confirm the eyewitness accounts that Shalbayah was murdered in cold blood. Even the occupying forces have admitted that he was unarmed.

This action is no doubt illegal, brutal, and criminal, constituting a violation of international law as well as Israel's obligations under the road map and must be roundly condemned by the international community. Furthermore, this deliberate illegal act seriously undermines the serious, concerted international and regional efforts now under way to support and advance the direct peace negotiations that have just commenced between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. Such illegal, violent and provocative actions threaten to escalate tensions, destabilize the fragile situation on the ground, and sabotage peace efforts and must be ceased completely.

In this regard, we wish to stress that the reality on the ground cannot and should not be disconnected from the ongoing peace efforts towards the realization of the two-State solution for peace on the basis of the pre-1967 borders. Clearly, Israel's unlawful and provocative actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem — whether it be ongoing colonization measures, including the construction and expansion of settlement and the Wall, as well as home demolitions and evictions, or the use of force against the Palestinian civilian population, negatively impact the peace process, undermining its credibility and continuity, to the detriment of both peoples and the region as a whole. Indeed, neither continued colonization nor military oppression of the Palestinian civilian population are compatible with the spirit and well-known, internationally supported objectives of the peace process.

It is thus incumbent upon the international community, which has invested so many years and so much political and diplomatic effort in the Middle East peace process to protect and support that process and to help maintain its credibility and viability. In this regard, it is thus the collective responsibility of the international community, particularly the Security Council, to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to halt completely all illegal and aggressive policies and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, including extrajudicial executions, raids of Palestinian cities and settlement expansion, and to ensure that Israel abides by its obligations under international law, United Nations resolutions and the Quartet road map. The way forward towards a peaceful and just resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, is dependent on this.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 373 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 20 August 2010 (A/ES-10/499-S/2010/441), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations